

C A M P A I G N F O R
ACCOUNTABILITY

June 6, 2018

By Email: Terri.Ricks.DCFS@la.gov

Terri Ricks, Executive Counsel
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
Post Office Box 1887
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Re: Louisiana Public Records Request

Dear Ms. Ricks:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for public records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:1 *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA requests from the Department of Children and Family Services (the “Department”) the following:

- 1) Copies of all communications, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational materials, talking points, or other materials received by the Department from, sent by the Department to, exchanged between the Department and any representative(s) of Caring-to-Love Ministries, Inc. (“CTL”), located in Baton Rouge, as well as communications between or among members of the Department regarding CTL. CTL also operates under the trade name Care Pregnancy Clinic;
- 2) Copies of all communications, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational materials, talking points, or other materials received by the Department from, sent by the Department to, exchanged between the Department and any representative(s) of Family Values Resource Institute, Inc. (“FVRI”), located in Baton Rouge, as well as communications between or among members of the Department regarding FVRI;
- 3) Copies of all communications, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational materials, talking points, or other materials received by the Department from, sent by the Department to, exchanged between the Department and any representative(s) of Louisiana Alliance for Life (“LAFL”) including but not limited to Mrs. Barbara Thomas, as well as communications between or among members of the Department regarding LAFL; and
- 4) Copies of all communications, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational materials, talking points, or other materials received by the Department from, sent by the Department to, exchanged between the Department and any representative(s) of

Louisiana Right to Life (“LARTL”), as well as communications between or among members of the Department regarding LATRL.

This request for records is from January 1, 2015, to the present.

By way of background, CTL is a crisis pregnancy center, one of many that Louisiana funds under a 2002 law enacted to provide alternatives to abortion services.¹ FVRI, LAFL and LARTL are organizations that coordinate, organize, and otherwise administer the operations of some of the state’s crisis pregnancy centers. The state’s crisis pregnancy center funding is now administered through the Department of Children and Family Services as an Alternatives to Abortion Initiative.² In fiscal year 2017, the Department made approximately \$1,260,000 of federal TANF funds available to the program and sought proposals for contractors to provide program services.³

If it is your position that any portion of the records requested is exempt from disclosure pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 44:2-23.1, please provide a written notice indicating the basis for that determination within three days of the receipt of this request. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:32D. If a requested record contains material that is exempt from disclosure as well as material that is not exempt, please produce the portions of the record that are not exempt. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:32B.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information primarily to benefit the general public. Furnishing copies of these records will allow CfA to inform and educate the public about state funding received by a private organization. Accordingly, CfA requests that the information be provided without charge. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:32C(2). If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Please respond to this request within five business days of receipt, as required by La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:35A, either by providing a determination of exemption of the records, producing the records, or providing a timeline for when the records will be produced. If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, #337, Washington, DC 20003.

¹ 2002 La. Act 13 at 171. The Alternatives to Abortion Services Program was added to the Louisiana Administrative Code in 2006. La. Admin. Code tit. 67, pt. III, § 5569.

²

http://www.dcf.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/searchable/ManagementFinance/RFP2016/201607_ATARFPSFY17.pdf.

³ *Id.*

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If you are unable to meet this statutory mandate, foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, or have any questions about this request, please contact me at 202-780-5750. Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Department to process it. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Stevens
Executive Director